

A "Whatisit" Solved

Another Bogus Perfined Overprint

Tony Stanford - GB Overprints Society & Maurice Harp - G.B. Perfin Society

[Editor's note: Jerry Soutar (LM#68) recently sent the item shown in Figure 1 to Bob Szymanski after reading Bob's article "British Bechuanaland" in the September/October 2009 *Bulletin* [63:107]. We then forwarded it Maurice Harp, G. B. Perfin Society and Tony Stanford, GB Overprints Society for assistance. Many thanks go to both of them for sharing their expert knowledge with us.]

Tony Stanford states that the "BRITISH" overprint (Figure 1) is completely bogus. It is on the 2½d value, Scott #114, with "WHH/& Co" perfin, pattern **W3640.02**. Walter H Hindley & Co., Jute and Canvas Manufacturers, located at 62/63 Queen Street, Cheapside, London is the recognized user of this perfin. By comparison, the stamp shown in Figure 2 is the another 2½d value with a genuine "BRITISH" overprint in similar small characters, for

use in the Oil Rivers Protectorate region of what is now Nigeria.

The cancellation on the bogus overprint appears to be one of the London hooded cancels illustrated in Figure 4. Also, he suspects that close inspection will reveal that ink from this overprint has penetrated into the perfin holes.

Maurice Harp adds that he would guess that Figure 1 is a home made production. When he was a child there was a toy on sale in Britain called the "John Bull Printing Set". It was comprised of a supply of rubber letters which could be mounted on a plastic holder. The child would sit for hours picking up little rubber letters with tweezers and trying to fit them into the holder. He would then stamp his work on an ink pad, print the result and then proudly show

his parents what he had done. A number of the fake overprints that appear on British stamps were produced by children using these printing sets and this may be one of them.



Figure 1
Bogus "BRITISH"
Overprint



Figure 2
Genuine "BRITISH"
Overprint



Figure 3
Pattern W3640.02



Figure 4
London Hooded
Cancel